

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(22)

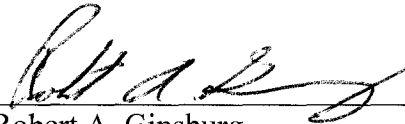
TO: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: April 5, 2005

FROM: Robert A. Ginsburg
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution Urging the Florida
Legislature to Freeze the District
Cost Differential (DCD) at the
Current Level Until Such Time
that a New and Equitable
Calculation for DCD May Be
Devised By a Qualified,
Unbiased Third party

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Commissioner Katy Sorenson, Dr. Barbara Carey-Shuler, Commissioner Carlos A. Gimenez, Commissioner Sally A. Heyman, Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan, Chairperson Joe A. Martinez and Commissioner Dennis C. Moss.


Robert A. Ginsburg
County Attorney

RAG/dc



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: April 5, 2005

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County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(22)

Please note any items checked.

- ☐ "4-Day Rule" ("3-Day Rule" for committees) applicable if raised
- ☐ 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- ☐ 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- ☐ Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- ☐ Budget required
- ☐ Statement of fiscal impact required
- ☐ Bid waiver requiring County Manager's written recommendation
- ☐ Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing
- ☐ Housekeeping item (no policy decision required)
- ☐ No committee review

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(22)
04-05-05

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO
FREEZE THE DISTRICT COST DIFFERENTIAL (DCD) AT
THE CURRENT LEVEL UNTIL A NEW AND EQUITABLE
CALCULATION FOR DCD MAY BE DEvised BY A
QUALIFIED, UNBIASED THIRD PARTY

WHEREAS, the 2004 session of the Florida Legislature endorsed a new calculation of the District Cost Differential (DCD) which purportedly adjusts educational funding for school districts both by cost of living and wage levels; and

WHEREAS, the entire calculation through a statistical technique allegedly adjusts wage levels for the value of amenities and trades wage levels for the imputed value of those amenities for wage levels; and

WHEREAS, the validity of this economic theory has not been independently reviewed by peer economists and educational finance experts as well as the appropriateness of the statistical technique utilized for such an adjustment; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature never explicitly changed the statutory basis for the DCD calculation but merely implicitly endorsed the use of the revised calculation by the Florida Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, the use of the new amenities-adjusted DCD damages and decreases educational funding for the Miami-Dade County Public Schools by over \$26 million during fiscal year 2004-2005, \$58 million during fiscal year 2005-2006, and \$112 million when fully implemented in fiscal year 2006-2007; and

WHEREAS, similar damaging effects result from the use of the revised DCD in 38 other Florida school districts, including Broward, Palm Beach, Volusia, and Monroe Counties; and

WHEREAS, the cumulative effect of the new version of the DCD will seriously impair the ability of affected districts to hire and retain qualified teachers and to offer a sufficient variety of educational programs to meet the diverse needs of its clients; and

WHEREAS, the quality and viability of public education is a necessary component for the economic well-being and development of a community and region,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:

Section 1. This Board urges the Florida Legislature and the Miami-Dade Legislative Delegation to adopt as a major priority and non-negotiable objective for the 2005 legislative session, the freezing of the calculation of the DCD at its 2004-2005 level and the commissioning of a study by an unbiased, qualified third party to review the validity of the amenities-adjusted DCD and to recommend a new more equitable calculation methodology.

Section 2. The Clerk of the Board is directed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Chair and members of the Miami-Dade County State Legislative Delegation.

Section 3. The Office of Intergovernmental Affairs is directed to include this issue in the County's 2005 state legislative package.

The foregoing resolution was sponsored by Commissioner Katy Sorenson, Dr. Barbara Carey-Shuler, Commissioner Carlos A. Gimenez, Commissioner Sally A. Heyman, Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan, Chairperson Joe A. Martinez and Commissioner Dennis C. Moss. and offered by Commissioner _____, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Joe A. Martinez, Chairman	
Dennis C. Moss, Vice-Chairman	
Bruno A. Barreiro	Dr. Barbara Carey-Shuler
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	Carlos A. Gimenez
Sally A. Heyman	Barbara J. Jordan
Dorrian D. Rolle	Natacha Seijas
Katy Sorenson	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 5th day of April, 2005. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

Jmm

Jess McCarty